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Child Welfare Services Review Program Enhancement Plan Adoption Services Committee Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2006
UW Pyle Center, Madison

I. Welcome/Introductions/Status Updates

Dale Langer, Manager of the Adoption and Consultation Section, welcomed participants and introductions were made.

Status on Committee Assignments:

- Continuous Permanency Planning Timeline – distributed to counties and is being used
- Adoption Readiness Form – routing through approval process
- Committee recommendation to transition to Structured Analysis Family Evaluation (SAFE) – Final decision to be made by the Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) upper management

II. Discussion of “SAFE” Implementation

Use of SAFE will be mandatory for adoption agency staff under contract with the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS). It will be optional for counties and other private agency staff.

Training could be provided in August / September 2006. There will be no cost to Wisconsin to train the first 300 individuals. Training will be offered at various locations throughout the state. Preference for training will be as follows: staff under contract with DHFS and DHFS adoption supervisors; county staff opting to use SAFE; and, private agencies. If additional training is needed, cost will be ‘actual costs’ (e.g., material, travel costs, etc.) Updates needed in Wisconsin Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (WiSACWIS) are being discussed.

III. Review of Adoption Standards

Cheryl Howe and Merriel Kruse reviewed the Adoption standards in detail with the committee. Suggested edits were provided by committee members.

IV. Review of 2005 Assembly Bill 521

Assembly Bill AB521, Section 59 that reflects s.48.84(1)-(3), Pre-adoptive preparation for proposed parents was discussed. Committee members identified possible areas of training and a workgroup was formed to research possible topics/structure for training.

V. Future Meetings / Location

Upcoming Dates: May 23, July 18, August 29, October 10 and November 14.
All meetings are scheduled to be held at the UW Pyle Center.

VI. Agenda for the Next Meeting – items were identified and will be reflected on the agenda

NEXT PEP ADOPTION COMMITTEE MEETING – May 23, 2006 in MADISON at the UW PYLE CENTER.